(b) Government are alert to all development that have a bearing on India's security and will take necessary steps to counter any threat.

Acquiring of Frigates by Pakistan from West Germany

1600. SHRIMATI KRISHNA KAUL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the reported move of Pakistan to acquire frigates from West Germany; and

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) Government are aware of reports to this effect.

(b) Government are keeping a constant watch on all such developments which have a bearing on the country's security.

Import of life saving essential equipment

1601. SHRIMATI KRISHNA KAUL Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in order to import life saving essential equipment no less than five Government agencies have to be approached for a permit;

(b) whether Government propose to change the procedure and have one window where permits can be obtained; and

(c) if so, when a decision in this regard is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI): (a) to (c) Most of the life-saving equipments are allowed for import under Open General Licence i.e. without an import licence *vide* List 2 of Appendix 6 of the Import-Export Policy for the period April 1985—March 1988 and as per Item 33 of Appendix 6 of the Policy, these life-saving equipments and their spares can be imported by all persons (under OGL). However, equipments not covered by OGL provisions can be imported on *ad hoc* licence and applications for such licences are considered by the office of CCI&E and decided expeditiously provided they are recommended by Director of Medical Services/Medical educations of the concerned State.

Merging of Northern areas of Pakistan with Pak-occupied Kashmir

1602. SHRIMATI KRISHNA KAUL:
SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the reported Pak move to merge its northern areas with Pak-occupied Kashmir; and

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b) Government are aware of efforts in Pakistan to alter the status of territories forming a part of Pak-occupied Kashmir.

We have repeatedly conveyed to Pakistan tha it has no *locus standi* in POK which is an integral part of India and that the only issue which remains to be resolved is the vacation of Indian territory under Pakistan's illegal occupation.

Setting up of a restaurant in London by ITDC

1603. SHRI SURAJ PRASAD: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state: